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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

23 NOV 1973

The Honorable F. Edward Hebert, Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request for our views and recommendations on H. R. 4294 and H. R. 6364, which provide additional retirement benefits for certain members of the Armed Forces and for certain Federal employees.

Both bills authorize additional service credit for retirement equal to the time spent as a prisoner of war or in a missing person status in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict. While both bills apply to military members of the Armed Forces, H. R. 4294 covers all Federal employees and H. R. 6364 is limited to Central Intelligence Agency employees covered by the CIA Retirement Act of 1964 for Certain Employees.

We take no position on the merits of these proposals; however, we do feel that if legislation of this nature is to be enacted it should be applied equitably to both military personnel and all civilian employees and not limited to those who serve under a particular Federal staff retirement system. Without such uniform application, inequities could arise in a single agency, such as CIA where some employees are covered by the Civil Service system and others by the CIA retirement system. H. R. 4294 would avoid such inequities.

In addition, we note that while the legislation applies to former military members, it does not apply to former civilian employees. We are not aware of any reason for such a distinction.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

~~/s/ W. E. Colby~~

W. E. Colby
Director

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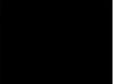
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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)				
FROM: Legislative Counsel		EXTENSION 6121	NO. DATE 20 November 1973	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.) Attached for your signature is a reply to a request from Chairman Hebert, House Armed Services Committee, for our views on legislation which would liberalize retirement benefits for former POW's and MIA's.   Our reply (submitted earlier to OMB) was reworked at the request of OMB which felt that our position was inconsistent with DOD which opposes the legislation. We have not taken any position on the merits of the legislation and saw no inconsistency; however, we revised our reply to avoid any misunderstanding. OMB has approved the attached for forwarding to Chairman Hebert  Legislative Counsel att.
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